



95-174

Educational Cultural Complex

DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES/SPECIAL EDUCATION
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February 15, 1996

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The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
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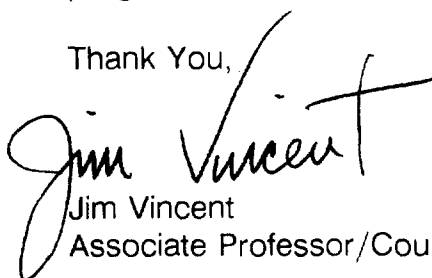
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Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to you with respect to the matter of closed captioning and video description of video programming (FCC 95-484). I am writing to bring to your attention the importance of closed captioning on both network and local television programming. Access to information is more important now than it ever has been and closed captioning of all television programming would be a major positive step in making information accessible to the deaf and hard of hearing population. Additionally, the early and consistent exposure to closed captioning could well have a positive impact on the English literacy levels of deaf children.

I encourage you to use the power of your office to require that all programs on television, both local and network, be closed captioned.

Thank You,


Jim Vincent
Associate Professor/Counselor

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95476

DATE: 02-13-1996
FROM: Henning Irgens and Sharon K. Wood
POB 6464, Farmington, NM 87499

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The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
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Dear Honorable Reed E. Hunt:

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This is now a gratifying opportunity for us to express our thanks to you for pushing for better closed captioning of televised programs through the Telecommunications Reform act of 1996 for people with certain disabilities, such as deaf and severely hard of hearing people. That act augurs educational technology into every classroom as well as opening the doors to expansion of various enterprises and accessibility to the Information Highway. Getting a full access to all telecommunication media is our inherent right to become fully participative as first class citizens.

We would like to have you know that in our community as in Farmington, NM the local KOBF-12 Broadcasting station has finally accomplished provision of closed captioning of the LOCAL news. Last night was the crowning event when we were made aware of such closed captioning availability. This ensures our capability of becoming better prepared about special events as well as hazards or emergencies in our Four Corners Area community.

There are many wonderful televised programs that do not come with closed captioning. Also, we would like to stress emphatically that all commercial/advertising programs be closed captioned because the absence of such often affects the resumption of closed captioning of programs following. Sometimes those commercials have an interruptive effect on basic programs so that no closed captioning comes back on!

Furthermore, it is just aggravating as well as a violation of our right to obtain either by purchase or rent of good videotape programs but not having closed captioning, which must or should be universally required. This is the main contention we have nowadays.

Once again, we cannot fail to stress that closed captioning is the key to increasing greater literacy of a larger number of people who may have been deprived of proper schooling in the United States. I would like to have you know that since the age of three I have been exposed to sub-titles of all foreign movies shown in the country of Norway where I grew up before emigrating alone to the U.S. in 1952. This enabled me from an early age to master reading skills that helped me succeed educationally and professionally in life despite my congenital deafness. Again, thank you for your great input in this matter of importance in behalf of our fellow deaf and hard of hearing people!

SINCERELY,

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Sharon K. Wood
Henning Irgens

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FEB 20 1996

From: Sheryl Segal
To: 95-176
Date: 2/20/96 1:00pm
Subject: Chairman's Column Comments -Reply

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

>>> <prissy.pense@rehab.state.tx.us> 01/31/96 10:13am >>>
Priscilla Pense (prissy.pense@rehab.state.tx.us) writes:

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I am pleased to see our government do something to require video and television producers to provide their programs in an accessible format. I do the captioning on video communications produced by some state agencies and public entites in Texas and I am appalled at the attitudes of some of our public servants... that it takes a lot of time, money and effort to do video productions and they just don't want to add the extra time and costs associated with making their products accessible to a minority population. I know the ADA requires accessibility to products funded with public money; however, enforcing that is an awsome task. In fact, the cost and time involved in captioning is very miniscule in comparison to the overall costs of production. It's folks attitudes that need to change; however that just won't happen until the requirement is enforced and/or those folks have opportunity to experience non-accessible communications themselves. (As our babyboomer generation moves into the geriatric phase, many will have the opportunity.)

I fully support the requirement of accessibility of ALL productions, (whether produced with public funds, produced for cable TV, private training sessions, etc.) and regulating the quality of captioning being provided on television today. Please include some way to enforce the requirement and monitor the quality of captioning.

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16 February 1996

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THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M. STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

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SUBJECT: CLOSED CAPTIONING & VIDEO PROGRAMMING (FCC 95-484)

Dear Sir,

It is with great disappointment that I write you this letter. As a deaf citizen of the US, and tax payer just like everyone else, it angers me that the issue of closed captioning is being treated as "if you can financially- if not, don't do it". You have no idea what it is like to live in the silent world and try to live the best you can. To you, "Captioning", is such a small unimportant issue. It does not become important until you lose your hearing as I did.

Sometimes I wonder what I would do without the few programs that are now being captioned on TV, especially the Local News stations. It is great help during bad weather when you can turn on the TV and read the conditions on the roads and warnings we need to know. Do you realize if it was not for captioning--What would I do?? Wait for the newspaper to read the news...hopefully the newspaper gets to the stand if the weather is bad and the roads not passable. What about an alert warning, were would that leave me if captioning is not done.

Our lives are silent enough, depressing enough without sound, or music to hear. Why take this only opportunity for us to better communicate, for us to keep in touch with the happenings around the world, for us to be entertained. You have no idea how it feels to want to see a recently released movie that is considered the best and one has to wait months until it gets on video captioned.

Think about the deaf community population in figures. We are not just a few, but many. The most important are the young ones that would benefit greatly through captioning. There are many reasons why you should consider it making a law that everything should be captioned not as it has been suggested "if you can financially" that would definitely leave us out in the dark.

Thanks for making this a better world for us to live in.

Respectively


ROSEMARY J. AGUIRRE

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THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
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WASHINGTON D.C. 20554

MM 95-174

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RE: In the Matter of Closed Captioning and video Description
Programming (FCC 95-484)

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Greetings from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alaskans!

Many people in Alaska are not happy with long, l o n g dark winter. Compensation of depression, they can listen/watch tv programs and rent/purchase video tapes. So they won't go crazy and attempt suicide. That's good for them.

B U T Deaf and Hard of Hearing people have no choice because there are about 20% to 30% of all video tapes and tv programs have captions. Thus, there is not real equal accessible.

Let me give you one of many examples: 90% of Deaf children are born to hearing parents who usually do not learn sign language and teach educational/vocational/technical materials to their Deaf children; simply because they feel that schools are solely responsibilities. In fact, hearing children learn greater number of vocabulary and better English grammar than their own deaf parents or deaf kids in neighborhood. Why? Hearing children listen tv and radio. They receive 100% information unless they turn sound off.

If FCC supports the concept of 100% captioning on all tv programs and video tapes, YOU can make the difference to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans.



Maryrose & Roger Claussen
P.O. Box 672438
Chugiak, Alaska
99567-2438

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